

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A level comprising:
 - a body including a cylindrical portion and a trapezoidal portion connected at an interface, the trapezoidal portion having a level face for measuring a surface;
the cylindrical portion defining a substantially uniform circular cross section with a diameter, the diameter in a parallel relationship with the level face of the trapezoidal portion;
 - at least one vial mounted in the body at a predetermined angular relationship to the level face; and
 - at least one hand-grip aperture formed in the trapezoidal portion adjacent to the cylindrical portion to allow a user to grip the cylindrical portion.
2. (original) The level of claim 1 wherein a first vial is mounted in the cylindrical portion at a predetermined angular relationship to the level face.
3. (original) The level of claim 2 wherein a second vial is mounted in the cylindrical and trapezoidal portions at another predetermined angular relationship to the level face.
4. (cancelled)
5. (original) The level of claim 1 wherein the cylindrical and trapezoidal portions overlap.

6. (original) The level of claim 1 wherein two hand-grip apertures are formed in the trapezoidal portion adjacent to the cylindrical portion to allow a user to grip the cylindrical portion, the hand-grip apertures being spaced apart along the interface.

7. (original) The level of claim 1 wherein the cylindrical and trapezoidal portions are integrally formed.

8. (currently amended) A level for facilitating handling and use, the level comprising:

- a planar bottom face surface extending from a first edge to a second edge, the face surface for contacting an element to be measured;
- a vial containing a bubble for measuring the levelness of the element, the vial mounted at a determined angular relationship to the face surface;
- a planar front surface portion extending upward from the first edge at an acute angle to the face surface and terminating at a front upper edge;
- a planar rear surface portion extending upward from the second edge at an acute angle to the face surface and terminating at a rear upper edge;
- a cylindrical portion mounted to the front and rear upper edges; and
- a hand-grip aperture formed in the front and rear surface portions adjacent to the front and rear upper edges and the cylindrical portion to allow a user to grip the cylindrical portion.

9. (original) The level of claim 8 wherein the vial is mounted in the cylindrical portion.

10. (original) The level of claim 9 further comprising a second vial mounted in a recess positioned in the front and rear surface portions and extending into the cylindrical portion, the second vial being set at another determined angular relationship to the face surface.

11. (original) The level of claim 8 wherein the cylindrical portion has a circular cross section and a diameter defining a cylindrical portion width and wherein the face surface is parallel to the diameter, the face surface having a width greater than the cylindrical portion width.

12. (original) The level of claim 8 wherein the cylindrical portion defines a curvilinear surface and wherein the hand-grip aperture is defined by an aperture surface extending from the front surface portion to the rear surface portion and by a portion of the curvilinear surface, the user gripping the curvilinear surface to hold the level.

13. (original) The level of claim 12 wherein the aperture surface is parallel to the face surface.

14 - 20 (canceled)

21. (new) A level for facilitating handling, the level comprising:
a cylindrical handle portion having a substantially uniform diameter and including two ends defining a length therebetween;
an element-contacting means extending from the cylindrical handle portion and defining a length substantially matching the length of the cylindrical handle portion; and
level-indicating means mounted with respect to the element-contacting means.

22. (new) The level of claim 21 wherein the level-indicating means is mounted in the cylindrical handle portion.

23. (new) The level of claim 21 wherein the element-contacting means includes a lower body portion.

24. (new) The level of claim 23 wherein the handle portion and lower body portion are integral.

25. (new) The level of claim 23 further comprising two hand-grip apertures located in the lower body portion adjacent the handle portion.

26. (new) The level of claim 23 further comprising a hand-grip aperture located in the lower body portion adjacent the handle portion.

27. (new) The level of claim 18 wherein the cylindrical portion is connected to the lower body portion at web portions surrounding the hand-grip aperture.